**Learner Engagement**

Student engagement is a constant struggle among all educators. Obviously content teachers find it difficult to engage students in learning facts and what they may think as irrelevant information. Physical Ed teachers have their own issues in engaging all of the nonathletic students, as well. Then, there are the music and art teachers that have a hard time getting some students involved to discover their own talents that they may not be aware of. Every teacher has to face a crowd of students and decide if they are engaged enough to retain the information long term that is presented. Jones points out that most teachers do this by way of three domains, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral observations (2010). However, a lot of these types of anecdotes lend themselves to physical observations, which is quite difficult to do for the educator within a distance learning field.

Schaeffer and Konetes attempt to define the cause of attrition rates and student success within online learning experiences. Their article features students’ responses to a survey that asks about their feelings of the experience they had with online learning. The survey revealed that students do not feel engaged with the learning because they felt like it didn’t challenge them enough to work for a high enough goal. They also shared how they lost that sense of community and communication with the professor.

References

Jones, R. (2008). Strengthening Student Engagement. Retrieved on March 18, 2012 from http://www.ipsi.utexas.edu/docs/alg\_readiness\_toolkit/Strengthen\_Student\_Engagement\_white\_paper.pdf

Schaeffer, C. and George D. Konetes (2010). Impact of learner engagement on attrition rates and student success in online learning